

**East Forest Park Civic Association
Minutes for January 9, 2008 Meeting**

Attendance (board members in bold): Richard & Darlene Acchione, John Bartenstein, Maria Bosworth, Rick Caputo, **JoAnne Cardell**, Denise Cardone, George Cartier, Dave Choquette, Wally & Chris Clark, Paul Cloutier, Gary Danforth, Carl Dietz, Elizabeth Eisold, Councilor James Ferrera, Matthew Ferry, Klaus Feuerstein, Jacque Forsman, **Linda Gallagher**, Ron Jordan, Sandy Little, Jeanie Marsh, Juan Martinez, Ronnie & Chris McCoy, Thomas & Kathleen Murphy, Ed Pomeroy, Cathy Rivet, **Frank Ryan**, **Shawn Sheehan**, Mary-Elizabeth St. Germain, Ramon Villanueva, Tom Walsh, Seamus Warwick, Jessica Washington, and **Ellen Walmer**

Board of Directors Organizational Meeting

The meeting began at 6:45 pm.

Dick Acchione moved and JoAnne Cardell seconded to approve Dave Choquette's letter to previous scholarship recipients. Dave was commended for a well written letter. The address on the letter will be for our P.O. Box.

Shawn mentioned that Matthew Ferry was going to speak at the beginning of the meeting about an initiative to make Whittum Avenue a one way street when Frederick Harris students arrive and are dismissed to improve traffic flow and student safety. A stop sign would also be installed at the intersection of Whittum and Arvilla to slow traffic down.

Shawn also mentioned that Carl Dietz from the Office of Code Enforcement was going to speak for the remainder of the meeting about different neighborhood issues.

Dick also mentioned that a representative from the Park Department might speak briefly at this meeting.

Joanne and Dick mentioned that the landlord at 28 Wheeler is not shoveling. The Civic Association will send a letter to the attention of the landlord reminding him/her of the city ordinance and the fines for not complying.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 13th. Suggestions were made to have a representative from the Assessor's Office speak and explain how to interpret property tax bills. A suggestion was also made to have someone speak about Community Policing, possibly for a future meeting if a representative from the assessor's office is unable to attend. It was also suggested to have a representative from the Public Works Department speak at our March meeting about street sweeping, which was not done in our area this fall. We would also like to have Charles Contant Speak about the Clean Up Springfield Initiative at our April Meeting.

General Session: Old Business

Shawn Sheehan, Co-President, administered the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

The minutes from our last meeting on 12/12/07 were unanimously accepted.

Shawn announced Seamus Warwick from Rep. Angelo Puppolo's Office, City Councilor James Ferrera, and Thomas Walsh from Mayor Sarno's Office.

Shawn commended Dave Choquette for taking time out of his hectic schedule to compose a letter to past Denise Shea Scholarship Award Winners asking for continued financial support. The letter was unanimously accepted by the board.

New Business

Matthew Ferry, the President of the Frederick Harris PTO and a member of the School Center Decision Making Team spoke about an initiative to make Whittum Avenue a one way street for student arrivals and dismissals to improve traffic flow (see handouts). The team is currently in the planning phase and is soliciting ideas from neighbors before the plan goes before Al Chwalek of the Traffic and Public Safety Commission.

Enforcement will be the biggest problem. Signage will be posted indicating the traffic flow from North (Plumtree Road) to South (Allen Street).

Matthew heard from neighbors regarding parking issues along Hartford Terrace and clarification on the direction of the flow of traffic when Whittum Avenue is designated as one way. Several more information sessions will be planned and the association recommended that Matthew inform neighbors who filled out the contact sheet of future meetings planned with the school and the school department.

Carl Dietz from the Office of Code Enforcement was introduced by Shawn. Mr. Dietz gave us some information about his department and mentioned that the call volume isn't high in the East Forest Park area, except for complaints regarding college students renting out single family homes.

Mr. Dietz is training two new employees to handle the volume of work in his office. Touring some of these properties is a problem too. All complaints go through the system and can be traced and all steps can be explained if requested, not in detail, but at least, what has happened to date. The Office of Code Enforcement gives thirty (30) days on a notice.

A neighbor brought to Mr. Dietz attention of three students (unrelated) living in a single house.

Another neighbor complained that she was written up a few years ago and was not given an adequate explanation for the violation (an empty bird feeder). She was very upset with the department and the way the violation was handled considering she keeps her property in immaculate condition.

Overgrown properties creating a problem to get into a street is addressed. A neighbor asked about sanitary fines (trash on property). Mr. Dietz said that those were typically handled in housing court.

Several complaints were brought up regarding sidewalks being shoveled. Mr. Dietz clarified that the city takes care of areas near parks, etc. Police and DPW take care of complaints to the public ways.

Kathleen Murphy brought up the day care facility which cares for 80+ kids behind her home on Overlook Drive. Mr. Dietz would forward the issue to another Code Enforcement officer who is assigned to the case.

Mr. Dietz had the honor of selecting the 50:50 raffle winner.

Other Announcements:

Keep Springfield Clean Press Conference at American International College on January 16th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Everyone is invited.

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 13th at Holy Cross School at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. The minutes were jointly submitted by Frank Ryan and Ellen Walmer on January 9, 2008.